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United States Patent [19]**Palmaz**[11] **Patent Number:** **5,102,417**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Apr. 7, 1992**

- [54] **EXPANDABLE INTRALUMINAL GRAFT,
AND METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
IMPLANTING AN EXPANDABLE
INTRALUMINAL GRAFT**

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Related U.S. Application Data

- [63] Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 923,798, Nov. 3, 1986,
Pat. No. 4,739,762, which is a continuation-in-part of
Ser. No. 796,009, Nov. 7, 1985, Pat. No. 4,733,665.

[51] **Int. Cl.⁵** **A61M 5/00; A61F 2/02**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **606/195; 604/8;
604/96; 604/282; 623/11**

[58] **Field of Search** **128/343, 344; 604/93,
604/49, 282, 343, 97, 8, 283; 623/1, 12, 11;
606/191-195, 108**

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[57]

ABSTRACT

A plurality of expandable and deformable intraluminal vascular grafts are expanded within a blood vessel by an angioplasty balloon associated with a catheter to dilate and expand the lumen of a blood vessel. The grafts may be thin-walled tubular members having a plurality of slots disposed substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the tubular members, and adjacent grafts are flexibly connected by at least one connector member.

36 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets